



## DIANE L. HARKEY

BOARD MEMBER, DISTRICT 4  
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

October 1, 2015

Mr. Tom Wheeler, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: FCC MB Docket No. 15-149 Charter Communications Proposed Merger**

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

The Federal Communications Commission will soon have an opportunity to consider the proposed merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks into "New Charter". As the State Elected Representative of the 4<sup>th</sup> District for the Board of Equalization, the financial health of my District and the residents as a whole is a central concern in the capacity in which I serve. The cost and quality of public services accessible to them must be reasonable and affordable. The June 25, 2015 public interest statement and public interest report issued by Charter Communications on the merger states that they will provide enhanced consumer benefits and advanced technology to the public, and has the potential of bringing more jobs to Southern California. Anything that can be done to enhance job creation and the economic climate in Southern California is of paramount importance.

The combined job force of 10,000 employees that the three companies have is impressive and valuable to our economy. I look forward to the potential New Charter has to enhance that number in the State of California. The promise to bring jobs back from overseas is exceptionally encouraging as losing those jobs due to local regulatory restraints on business has been a hurdle we as a nation have long sought to overcome.

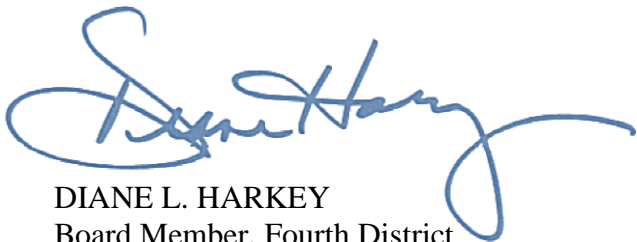
Charter's pledge to build out commercial networks and residential line extensions and the investment in our economy that comes with the accompanied spending is a well-received commitment by New Charter to Southern California. Additionally, there is increased value as the New Charter package promises to offer faster internet services at better values without constricting competition and take advantage of the interactive advance of technology and the internet. This type of investment is particularly important for infrastructure in rural and underserved communities, and also contributes to business development while furthering job creation.

Lastly, Charter Communication's public affairs show **Charter Local**, *California Edition* has demonstrated internal commitment to the public good. Brad Pomerance has served as the program's News Anchor for some time and has built long lasting ties with community leaders and elected officials in such a way that has assisted beyond communicating the civics and purpose of Government and the leaders that serve. His show has also been a nexus of opportunity that brings decision makers together in a neutral setting that has improved relationships throughout Southern California.

Under the law, Charter Communications must present evidence to the FCC establishing that New Charter would foster competition, technological advancement, and economic synergies that will benefit the public. I understand that a lot of time and careful consideration has been put into the New Charter proposal and its outcome has laid the groundwork for great economic potential for the State of California, Southern California, our communities and the residents I serve. Charter Communications has been a tremendous partner for our State and I strongly urge you to constructively consider the New Charter merger proposal.

If I can be of any further assistance, please contact my office at (916) 323-9794.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diane Harkey", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

DIANE L. HARKEY  
Board Member, Fourth District  
California State Board of Equalization